

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-18 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-14 and 19 are pending in the present application. No claim is allowed.

### The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 13-14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,534,751) in view of Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,105,588). **Regarding claim 1**, it would not be obvious to combine the teaching of Lenz with Li to obtain the invention as recited in claim 1. Col. 4, lines 26-36, of Li, cited by the Examiner recites a chemistry of ammonia and a fluorine containing gas source for use in a resist stripper system 10, which is used to strip photoresist. It would not be obvious to use the chemistry taught in Li for stripping photoresist in the etcher taught by Lenz for etching stacks on a substrate, as recited in claim 1. The Examiner failed to point out anything in Lenz or Li that teaches or suggests that a chemistry for stripping a photoresist would be useful for etching a substrate. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is not unpatentable over Lenz in view of Li.

Claims 6, 7, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,534,751) in view of Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,105,588) and further in view of Westendrop et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,565,036).

Claims 6, 7, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,534,751) in view of Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,105,588) and further in view of Ishida et al. (Japanese Patent Publication 05-234594).

Dependent claims 2-14 and 19 are also patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the same reasons as those recited above for claim 1, upon which they ultimately depend. These dependent claims recite additional limitations that further distinguish these dependent claims from the cited references. For example, claim 14 recites that the exhaust system is able to maintain a pressure below 300 mTorr within the chamber walls. The Examiner failed to point out anything in the cited references that discloses this feature. For at least these reasons, claims 2-14 and 19 are not unpatentable over the cited references.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

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If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. LAM1P157).

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lee".

Michael Lee  
Reg. No. 31,846

P.O. Box 778  
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778

Telephone: (831) 655-2300  
Facsimile: (831) 655-4288

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